

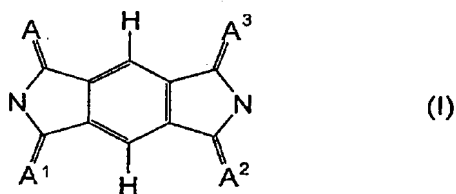
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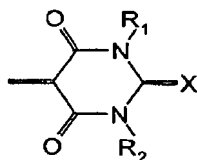
Attorney's Docket: 2003DE108  
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 Group: 1626

Amendments to the Claims

- 1) (Currently Amended) A compound of the general formula (I)



wherein A is a divalent radical of the formulae (a)

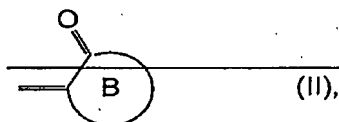


(a)

wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> independently represent hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>25</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>12</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-aryl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>25</sub>-alkyl-(C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-aryl), a 5- to 6-membered heteroaromatic radical having 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-COR<sub>3</sub> or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-OR<sub>4</sub>, and wherein a C-C unit in R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> is, optionally, replaced by an ether unit C-O-C  
X is =O, =S or =NR<sub>5</sub>, where R<sub>5</sub> is R<sub>1</sub> or R<sub>2</sub>

of a cyclic compound of the general formula (II)

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wherein B is an alicyclic or heterocyclic group, and A<sup>1</sup>, A<sup>2</sup> and A<sup>3</sup> are the same or different and are A or =NR, wherein R is hydrogen, unsubstituted phenyl, phenyl substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, R<sup>0</sup>, OR<sup>0</sup>, SR<sup>0</sup>, NH<sub>2</sub>, NHR<sup>0</sup>, NR<sub>2</sub><sup>0</sup>, NO<sub>2</sub>, COOH, COOR<sup>0</sup>, CONH<sub>2</sub>, CONHR<sup>0</sup>, CONR<sub>2</sub><sup>0</sup>, CN, SO<sub>3</sub>H, SO<sub>3</sub>(OR<sup>0</sup>), and SO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>0</sup>, phenyl substituted by a 5- to 7-membered heteroaromatic radical having 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S; a 5- to 7-membered heteroaromatic radical having 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of N, O and S; NH<sub>2</sub>, NHR<sup>0</sup>, NR<sub>2</sub><sup>0</sup>, NHCONH<sub>2</sub> or NHCONHR<sup>0</sup>, where R<sup>0</sup> is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-alkyl or C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>24</sub>-aryl.

2) through 6) (Cancelled)

7) (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 6-1, wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are hydrogen, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>5</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-cycloalkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-aryl, benzyl, pyridyl, pyrrol, thienyl, imidazolyl, oxazolyl, thiazolyl, pyrimidyl, hydroxycarbonyl-C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-alkoxycarbonyl-C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, aminocarbonyl-C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-alkylaminocarbonyl-C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-arylaminocarbonyl-C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, di(C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-alkyl)aminocarbonyl-C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl, C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>18</sub>-alkyl-C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-arylaminocarbonyl-C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl or di(C<sub>6</sub>-C<sub>10</sub>-aryl)aminocarbonyl-C<sub>0</sub>-C<sub>6</sub>-alkyl.

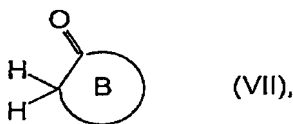
8) and 9) (Cancelled)

10) (Withdrawn) A process for preparing a compound according to claim 1, comprising the steps of reacting 1,2,4,5-tetracyanobenzene with at least 2 equivalents of at least one of ammonia or alkoxides MOR<sub>7</sub>,

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wherein M is sodium or potassium,  $R_7$  is  $C_1-C_{18}$ -alkyl or  $-(CH_2)_m-OH$  and m is an integer from 1 to 6, and a C-C unit is, optionally, replaced by an ether unit C-O-C, in a solvent or solvent mixture under basic to neutral conditions at a temperature in the range from -20 to 120°C to form tetra-, tri-, di- or monoimino-substituted benzodipyrroles, and

reacting the tetra-, tri-, di- or monoimino-substituted benzodipyrroles with at least 1 equivalent of a cyclic compound of the formula (VII) in a solvent or solvent mixture



under neutral to acidic conditions

and optionally not more than 3 equivalents of  $H_2NR$ .

11) (Withdrawn) A method of using a compound according to claim 1 comprising the step of dyeing or pigmenting an organic or inorganic, high or low molecular weight material with the compound.

12) (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 11 wherein the material is selected from the group consisting of electrophotographic toners, electrophotographic developers, color filters, electronic inks and optical layers for optical data storage.

13) (Currently Amended) A composition comprising ~~an organic or inorganic, high or low molecular weight material~~ a plastic, paint, printing ink, electrophotographic toner, electrophotographic developer, color filter, electronic ink or an optical layer for optical data storage and at least one of the compound as claimed in claim 1, in an amount from 0.005% to 70% by weight, based on the material.

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14) (Currently Amended) A composition comprising ~~an organic or inorganic, high or low molecular weight material~~ a plastic, paint, printing ink, electrophotographic toner, electrophotographic developer, color filter, electronic ink or an optical layer for optical data storage and at least one of the compound as claimed in claim 1.

15) (Cancelled)